



U.S. Coast Guard Historian's Office

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Commander Raymond J. Evans, Jr., USCG (Ret.)



Commander Raymond J. Evans, USCG (Ret.) enlisted in the Coast Guard on 18 September 1939 in Seattle and immediately volunteered for sea duty when offered the chance. In the years prior to World War II new recruits were sometimes sent immediately to sea without attending boot camp if a local cutter needed crewmen. Such was the case when CGC *Spencer* tied up in Seattle while en route from Valdez, Alaska, to Staten Island, New York. Along with Evans, another local recruit named Douglas Munro also joined the *Spencer*. They both struck for signalman and both later transferred to the Coast Guard-manned assault transport USS *Hunter Liggett* (APA-14).

During the war Evans saw extensive combat service, including participating in the attack on Guadalcanal, where both he and his shipmate, Douglas Munro, gained national acclaim for their heroic rescue operation that saved a Marine Corps unit that was trapped behind enemy lines. Munro gave his life for his country that day and was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. Evans survived the mission and was awarded the Navy Cross. Evans was commissioned



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in mid-1943 and continued his Coast Guard career after the war, retiring as a Commander in 1962.

During the war, in addition to his Navy Cross, he was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon with 1 battle star, a Commandant's Letter, the American Defense Service Medal with one battle star, the American Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with five battles stars, and the Coast Guard Good Conduct Medal, among others.

Commander Evans crossed the bar on 30 May 2013.

Further Information:

- Ray Evans' Official Coast Guard Record
- Ray Evan's Coast Guard Resume
- Navy Cross Citation
- Navy Cross Award Records (USN)
- Misc. correspondence, personal letters, emails & photos (post-war); including material on the official preparations for a ceremony conducted in the Pacific to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the action on Guadalcanal.
- Interview
- Autobiographical account entitled "The Gold Dust Twins" where Ray Evans remembers his friend and shipmate Douglas Munro."
- ALCOAST 250/13, dated 4 June 2013.



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Images:



Ray Evans enlistment photo.



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Ray Evans (left) and CDR Dwight Dexter (right) in May, 1943.



Ray Evans' award ceremony, 29 May 1943.



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Ray Evans' award ceremony, 29 May 1943.



Ray Evans' award ceremony, 29 May 1943.



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Ray Evans' award ceremony, 29 May 1943.



Ray Evans & RADM E. D. Jones, 1943.



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Ray Evans in May, 1943.



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Ensign Ray Evans (left) & SPAR ENS C. W. Cockburn.



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Sketch of Ray Evans as published in the 23 January 1944 *Seattle Times*.



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Ray Evans and his class at the U.S. Navy's Civil Engineer Corps Officers School, June, 1952.



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Ray Evans in 1992 holding a portrait photo of himself soon after he enlisted in the Coast Guard.



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Ray Evans in 1992 holding a painting that depicts the moment before the death (in action) of his friend and shipmate, Douglas Munro, at Guadalcanal.
